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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Second session
Geneva, 27 February - 4 March 1996
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY UNDER THE PILOT PHASE

Options for reporting guidelines

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its first session (COP 1), by its decision 5/CP.1,* decided that a framework for reporting on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase should be established by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), in coordination with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

2. The SBSTA, at its first session, considered the issue and requested the secretariat to prepare proposals on a reporting framework, taking into consideration views expressed by Parties and experience gained in activities implemented jointly, for consideration at its future sessions (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 31 (b)). Submissions by Parties were compiled by the secretariat in response to the request made by the SBSTA, at its first session (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 31 (a)). Those submissions are available in documents FCCC/SBSTA/1995/MISC.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.1.

* For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

B. Scope of the note

3. The present note aims at assisting Parties in establishing a reporting framework for activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase for which proposals by Parties are before the SBSTA. To assist Parties in elaborating a reporting framework, this note, starting from decision 5/CP.1, considers the purpose of the reporting framework, draws attention to some options for its design and suggests a process for establishing the framework and conducting related methodological work.

II. PURPOSE OF THE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

4. In establishing a pilot phase for activities implemented jointly, the COP decided to launch a process in which this form of international cooperation for the implementation of the objective of the Convention would be tested, the experience with it observed, and information on this experience gathered, analysed and synthesized. The COP therefore mandated the SBSTA to establish a reporting framework in coordination with the SBI. Consistent with the provisions of decision 5/CP.1, it is envisaged that the information collected will enable the COP:

(a) To review, at its annual session, the progress of the pilot phase on the basis of a synthesis report;

(b) To take appropriate decisions on the continuation of the pilot phase;

(c) To take into consideration the need for a comprehensive review of the pilot phase in order to take a conclusive decision on the pilot phase and the progression beyond that, no later than the end of the present decade.

5. In performing these tasks the COP will consider the criteria defined in decision 5/CP.1, paragraph 1.

6. Information collected for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 4 above may range from basic information to identify activities implemented jointly and their essential results as regards greenhouse gas emissions to more comprehensive information covering numerous aspects of these activities. As reporting information will impose a cost on those who implement activities and on reporting Parties, it is important to avoid placing an excessive burden of such transaction costs on them. However, the very nature of the pilot phase implies careful observation in order to facilitate decision-making during this phase, while reporting requirements could possibly be reduced thereafter. Finding an appropriate balance between these concerns in determining the optimum level of detail necessary to inspire confidence in the reported information will be the task of the SBSTA in establishing a

reporting framework for the pilot phase. This action is needed at an early date in order to make it possible to collect information on activities under way and thus begin to build up experience.

III. OPTIONS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

7. In designing a reporting framework, a number of issues need to be addressed.

8. Some of the issues have to do with the reporting process. It is recalled in that regard that the COP decided that during the pilot phase the "... Parties ... are encouraged to report to the Conference of the Parties through the secretariat using the framework thus established. This reporting shall be distinct from the national communications of Parties" (decision 5/CP.1, para. 2 (b)). The following issues need to be considered:

(a) Who should report on a given activity? Each participating Party separately or participating Parties jointly? In the latter case the report could be submitted through, for example, the host country;

(b) What should be the level of reporting? Should the report be at the activity level or at a more aggregated level like that of a national programme comprising several activities?

(c) When should information be reported (in view of the need to monitor the different stages of implementation of activities implemented jointly, and to avoid peaks of information processing)?

9. Other issues are related to the criteria defined in decision 5/CP.1:

(a) **"... activities implemented jointly should be compatible with and supportive of national environment and development priorities and strategies ..."** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (b)), which could be considered in conjunction with the provision that the reporting shall be on **"... the national economic, social and environmental impacts ..."** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 2 (a)). The reporting framework needs to provide for a Party to confirm that an activity is compatible with and supportive of its national environment and development priorities and strategies. Furthermore it needs to be decided which indicators for national economic, social and environmental impacts should be reported on. The recognition that activities implemented jointly **"... could contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and to the fulfilment of commitments of Annex II Parties under Article 4.5 of the Convention"** (decision 5/CP.1, preambular para. (b)) may indicate that transfer of technology should be addressed in the reporting framework in this context.

Activities implemented jointly should **"... contribute to cost-effectiveness in achieving global benefits..."** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (b)). To meet this criterion, indicators must be defined that will make the assessment of such a contribution possible. A decision will be needed on what cost element and which elements characterizing global benefits related to activities implemented jointly should be reported.

Activities implemented jointly **"... could be conducted in a comprehensive manner covering all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases"** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (b)). This defines the scope of the activities that may be reported on.

(b) **"... all activities implemented jointly under this pilot phase require prior acceptance, approval or endorsement by the Governments of the Parties participating in these activities"** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (c)).

The issues here are the form in which such acceptance, approval or endorsement is reported and which national entity has the authority to take such action.

(c) Activities implemented jointly **"should bring about real, measurable and long-term environmental benefits related to the mitigation of climate change that would not have occurred in the absence of such activities"** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (d)).

Bringing about real, measurable and long-term environmental benefits related to the mitigation of climate change is at the core of the Convention. The implicit reference to what would have occurred in the absence of the considered activity raises a number of issues including baselines and additionality. Determining the impact of an activity on greenhouse gas emission levels implies the definition of a baseline. Baselines are difficult to define, as what would have occurred in the absence of the considered activity cannot be determined with certainty. Some analysts therefore suggest that alternative baselines should be considered. Other issues are the review of baselines over time, the monitoring of real, measurable
long-term benefits over time and the frequency with which this is done.

(d) **"... the financing of activities implemented jointly shall be additional to the financial obligations of Parties included in Annex II to the Convention within the framework of the financial mechanism as well as to current official development assistance (ODA) flows"** (decision 5/CP.1, para. 1 (e)).

This implies that detailed information on the financing structure should be provided and that a clear definition by Parties on what they consider to be ODA is required.

IV. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

10. The SBSTA has before it proposals by Parties for a reporting framework contained in the documents mentioned in paragraph 2 above. Those proposals represent alternative approaches to issues raised in paragraphs 8 and 9 above. The SBSTA may wish at this session to decide on an initial framework based on those inputs so that reporting can begin. In case the initial framework needs elaboration in order to address more fully issues raised in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, the secretariat could be requested to prepare proposals in that regard, for consideration by the SBSTA at its third session, taking into account the views expressed by Parties. At that session, the SBSTA could thus establish a reporting framework for the pilot phase.

11. It is recalled that the SBSTA and the SBI, with the assistance of the secretariat, are to prepare a synthesis report for consideration by the COP. The first such report could be prepared for the COP at its third session.

12. Collection of information in accordance with the reporting framework should be supplemented by a process of study and analysis in which a number of representative case studies could be prepared. Such a process could address methodological issues referred to in this note, as well as others that may emerge in the course of the pilot phase. This work could be initiated after the third session of the SBSTA and its progress would be reported to the SBI, consistent with the division of labour between these subsidiary bodies.

13. It is noted in this regard that a process is under way to establish an intergovernmental technical advisory panel (ITAP). In the annex to the draft decision of the SBSTA on the "Establishment of an intergovernmental technical advisory panel", contained in the report by the Chairman on his informal consultations (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/2), one task refers to activities implemented jointly. Once established, the panel could therefore contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned actions.

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Note by the secretariat

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Programme on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories 9

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP 1), at its first session, by its decision 4/CP.1* on methodological issues, decided that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) should propose a work plan and timetable for longer-term activities relating to methodological questions (including inventory methodologies and methodologies for analysing impacts and mitigation options) and the establishment of working relations with other bodies (in particular the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)) and its working groups and programmes.

2. The COP also invited the relevant international organizations and bodies, including the IPCC, to contribute to the work of the SBSTA, especially on the scientific aspects of methodologies, particularly those relating to inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, global warming potentials of those greenhouse gases, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, projections of emissions by sources and removals by sinks, the evaluation of the effects of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention and the allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels.

3. Further, in its decision 6/CP.1, the COP invited the officers of the SBSTA and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to submit, after due consultation with their respective bodies, proposals for future cooperation between the SBSTA and the SBI and the IPCC, to the second session of the Conference of the Parties. The SBI, at its first session, decided that, in order to avoid duplication of effort, cooperation between the subsidiary bodies of the Convention and the IPCC should be addressed by the SBSTA and without prejudice to paragraph 6 of decision 6/CP.1 (FCCC/SBI/1995/5, para. 17).

4. At its first session, the SBSTA expressed strong support for the continued functioning of the IPCC as one of the independent and prominent sources of scientific and technical information relevant to the implementation of the Convention, as specified in Article 9 of the Convention (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 24). It also identified a list of areas in which it could draw upon the assistance of the IPCC in order to provide the COP with timely information and advice on relevant scientific and technical issues. The list was preliminary and general and subject to modifications, refinements and additions (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, annex).

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* For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/Add.1.

5. The SBSTA also noted the need to identify short- and long-term requirements and requested its Bureau to hold joint meetings with the relevant officers of the IPCC and report to each of its sessions on the outcome of these meetings. In this context the SBSTA envisaged the need for scientific and technical advice from the IPCC on special emerging topics to be made available within short periods of time (perhaps one year or so). It agreed therefore that there would be a need for close coordination between the SBSTA and the IPCC in identifying more specific proposals for jointly agreed tasks and considering such matters as time-frames for implementation and financial implications, including contributions to the IPCC from the Convention budget. It felt that this would be particularly important after the consideration by the SBSTA of the IPCC Second Assessment Report at which time the secretariat should prepare a list of priority areas and propose time-frames in which inputs from the IPCC would be required for the future work of the SBSTA. The SBSTA would keep the agenda item "Cooperation with competent international bodies including the IPCC" under regular review (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, para. 24).

B. Scope of the note

6. This note briefly reports on the first meeting of the Joint Working Group of Officers of the Convention and the IPCC, which was held in Geneva on 27 October 1995, and refers to the second meeting to be held on 25 February 1996. Further, the note mentions the main conclusions of the IPCC on its future work plan, as agreed at the eleventh session of the IPCC in Rome in December 1995. The Joint Working Group will discuss these conclusions on 25 February 1996 and seek to develop a common view on the contributions that the IPCC may make to the Convention process in the coming years. The note also indicates possible action by the SBSTA. The annex to this note provides some information on the IPCC programme for inventory methodologies.

II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The IPCC has been the main source of scientific inputs for the Convention process. The process was only formally launched in late 1990 after the First Assessment Report of the IPCC had been completed earlier that year. Article 21.2 of the Convention recognizes the role of the IPCC in responding to the need for objective scientific and technological advice.

8. The importance of scientific assessment of the Convention process cannot be overstated. It is the scientific findings on climate change that interest the public and that motivate political and economic responses. At the same time, scientific uncertainty is a mitigating force, limiting the environmental drive of the Convention process. More and better scientific information and assessment reinforce the political resolve to implement and strengthen the Convention. The adaptation of scientific information for use by the public information media contributes to this end.

9. In the light of the IPCC Second Assessment Report, it is clear that much scientific work still lies ahead to better define the problems involved in climate change, to expand the

range of options and to reduce uncertainty. Emphasis may need to be placed in future work on defining the impacts of climate change and on developing innovative low cost solutions. At the same time, as these issues approach real political choices, it will be important to keep the scientific process distinct from politics. This means that the frontier between the scientific/technical assessments of the IPCC and the political process of the Convention needs to be carefully monitored. What is fundamental, however, is that the IPCC has the mandate and resources to continue its work and that it be allowed to do so in a way that leaves its scientific integrity and credibility unimpaired. The Joint Working Group could address any questions which may arise on these fundamental issues, and, if necessary, bring them to the attention of the relevant body or bodies.

III. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

10. The IPCC considered its future work programme at its eleventh plenary session, held in Rome from 11 to 15 December 1995. The session endorsed, with some amendments, the proposals presented by the Chairman of the IPCC in document IPCC-X1/Doc. 7. The IPCC intends to prepare a Third Assessment Report, beginning around 1998 and aiming for completion around 2000. The reports of the Working Groups could possibly be released sequentially, for example at 6 to 9 months intervals. In the interim, a series of Special Reports could be prepared. These would be on topics that would be helpful to the Third Assessment Report, or, in a general way, to the Convention process; their completion should take 12 to 18 months and would follow the IPCC procedures. The IPCC Special Report of 1994 could be regarded as an example. For the shorter term, the IPCC could also prepare Technical Papers on request from the Convention bodies; these reports would be based on material already in the IPCC Assessment Reports. Further, the IPCC would organize workshops, and continue its work on methodologies for inventories.

11. The activities for 1996 and 1997 include:

(a) Technical Papers (drawing mainly upon the Second Assessment Report)

The IPCC Bureau would initiate Technical Papers responding to requests from the SBSTA in 1996, after consultation between the Joint Working Group and the Bureau of the SBSTA. The Papers could be on:

- Technology transfer (from the contribution of Working Group II to the Second Assessment Report)
- Impacts (scientific, economic, and environmental) of climate change and of response measures with emphasis on developing countries
- Scenarios and pathways to stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations
- Simple climate models

The IPCC also adopted procedures for drafting, reviewing, finalizing and releasing the Technical Papers.

(b) **Special Reports (assessing new scientific information on specific topics)**

Any work on Special Reports would have to be approved by the IPCC twelfth plenary session scheduled for September 1996. However, the following were suggested, *inter alia*, as subject matters for Special Reports:

- Simple climate models
- Global stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations
- Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem vulnerability
- Risk of instabilities

(c) **Workshops**

(i) The IPCC would organize workshops on the following topics in 1996:

- Regional climate prediction
- Landuse and biomass (related to work on methodologies for greenhouse gas inventories)
- Methane from rice (related to work on methodologies for greenhouse inventories)

(ii) The IPCC Bureau would consider ways and means to organize workshops (aiming at cooperation with other organizations) on the following topics:

- Integrated assessments models
- Comparison of top-down/bottom-up emissions inventories
- Projections/scenario methodologies for the IPCC Third Assessment Report
- Methodologies for economic/social impact assessment in developing countries
- Methodologies for estimating climate change damages
- Oceans/coral reefs and roles in the carbon cycle
- Adaptation

(d) **Programme on inventory methodologies**

12. Of particular interest was the decision that work on methodologies for greenhouse gas inventories should continue at full capacity in 1996 and 1997. This will allow incorporation of the new information on emission factors that is underway, particularly from developing countries. It will also allow the development of methodologies that can be applied in an as wide as possible range of countries. Some details of the programme are given in the annex to this document. The IPCC will review the programme at its 1997 session and decide on further work. Cooperation with the Convention will be an important feature of the programme.

IV. MEETINGS OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP

13. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group was held on 27 October 1995. It was attended by the Chairmen of the SBSTA and the IPCC, by other officers of the FCCC and IPCC and by members of the secretariats. Discussions focused on the initial list of items identified by the SBSTA at its first session (see paragraph 4 above), on the IPCC inventories and methodologies programme, on the Second Assessment Report and on future IPCC reports. The meeting also identified a number of areas where a measure of priority attention was considered necessary. These comprise:

(a) The IPCC Synthesis Report on information relevant to the implementation of Article 2 of the Convention

(b) The inventories and methodologies programme

(c) Technology transfer

(d) Socio-economic impacts of climate change and impacts of response measures

(e) Adaptation measures

14. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group is scheduled to take place on 25 February 1996. The Chairman of the SBSTA will brief the SBSTA on the meetings of the Group, with particular reference to its second meeting. The Chairman of the IPCC will also address the SBSTA.

V. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

15. A new aspect of the relationship with the IPCC arises from the approved Convention budget for 1996-1997, which provides for a contribution towards the costs of services rendered to the Convention process. This provision is intended to help the IPCC respond to specific requests from the COP or its subsidiary bodies. An amount of some US$ 620.000 has been provided for the biennium, assuming that the Convention budget is fully subscribed. It is envisaged that, on the basis of conclusions from the SBSTA with respect to cooperation with the IPCC and with the help of the IPCC secretariat, the Convention secretariat will provide information on financial aspects of the cooperation to the third meeting of the SBI so that it can advise the COP.

VI. POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

16. The SBSTA may wish:

(a) To consider and endorse the conclusions of the Joint Working Group of Officers of the SBSTA and the IPCC, as will be reported by the Chairman of the SBSTA, and to welcome the continuing work programme of the IPCC during the period 1996-1997 in the area of methodologies for greenhouse gas inventories;

(b) To request the secretariat to prepare a long-term programme on methodologies, as required by decision 4/CP.1 of the COP, taking the IPCC activities into account;

(c) To invite the IPCC to work closely with the Convention secretariat and the intergovernmental technical advisory panel, once established, in relevant areas, inter alia, as concerns methodologies for inventories to be used by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and non-Annex I Parties, in preparing national communications, and technological issues;

(d) To request the Joint Working Group to consider the list of priority areas identified by the SBSTA and propose timetables within which inputs from the IPCC would be required for the future work of the SBSTA, on the basis of information prepared by the Convention secretariat (see paragraph 5 above);

(e) To request the IPCC to continue its work on Article 2 of the Convention, as follow-up to its Synthesis Report, including the possible convening of a special workshop to review and discuss the main findings and/or difficulties;

(f) To request the Chairman of the SBSTA to continue his activities with respect to the Joint Working Group, with a view to further refining and adjusting the working arrangements between the Convention bodies and the IPCC, and report back regularly to the SBSTA.

17. The SBSTA may also wish to consider acting upon the suggestion included in the document on the Second Assessment Report, that it invites the IPCC, its parent bodies (the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme) and the Convention secretariat to collaborate in disseminating information from the SAR, in such a manner as to facilitate its absorption by different audiences, including the public information media (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7, para. 29).

Annex

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Specific elements of the 1996-1997 work programme undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in close cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Agency, include:

- Completing the work of the 1995 expert groups by issuing revised Guidelines as needed
- Development of revised emission factors for methane from rice and land use change and forestry
- Developing country capacity building in coordination and evaluation of activities on the IPCC Guidelines
- Development of other recommendations for the IPCC Guidelines

This programme covers completion of products from the existing expert groups* by 1996 and includes initiating work on methane emissions from rice production. A workshop on methane from rice would be convened in early 1996 to review methane emission factors.

The proposals are summarized in the table below. The time-frame for the activities is shown in the attached figure.

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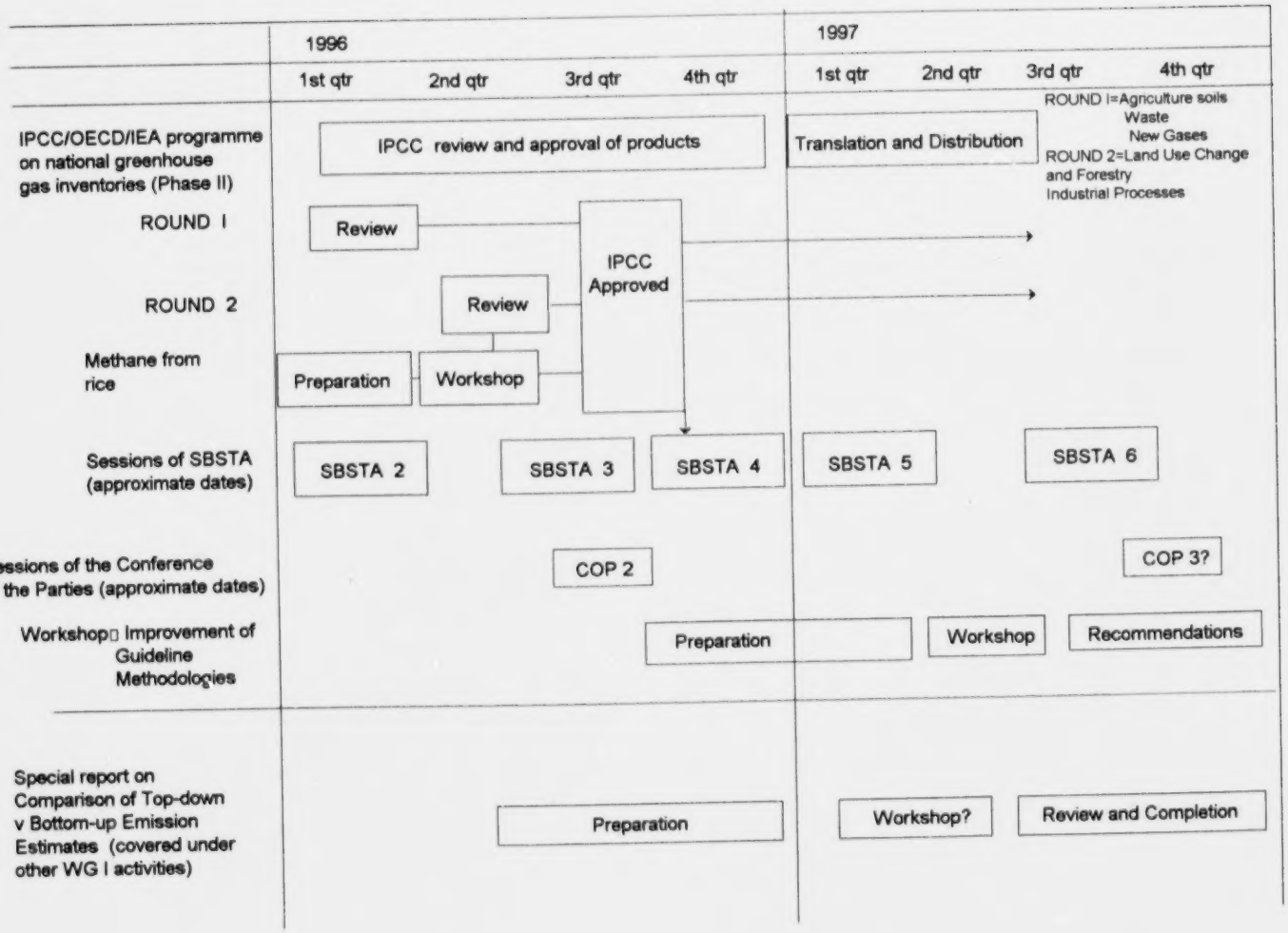
* The products of the existing expert groups include methods for: "new gases" and other gases from industrial processes; N_2O and CO_2 from agricultural soils; and revisions to methods for land use change and forestry, waste, and fuel combustion.

**IPCC PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES:
PHASE II EXTENSION UNTIL THE END OF 1997**

Activity	Product
Core support	IPCC staff unit (housed in the OECD) to support all activities of the Inventories Programme
Revision of IPCC Guidelines (completion of the work of the 1995 expert groups by issuing revised Guidelines in five specific areas)	Stand-alone IPCC Guidelines revisions (in English; French; Spanish; Russian). Based on the expert group work which was initiated in 1995.* Includes distribution, assimilation of comments; editing and publication; translation (3 languages only)
Development of revised emission factors for methane from rice and land use change and forestry -Methane from rice -Land use change and forestry	Recommendations to be developed following in 1996 and 1997 IPCC workshops aimed to review recent information; possible preparation of IPCC Guidelines revisions (English only)
Developing country capacity building in coordination and evaluation of activities on the IPCC Guidelines	Summary report -- to be produced by a visiting developing country scientist residing at the OECD
Development of other recommendations to improve overall Guideline methodologies	Recommendations/workshop report to be drawn up following a 1997 IPCC workshop aimed at reviewing experience and new information emerging from all countries Budget does not include full IPCC review or production of revisions to the Guidelines

* Includes methods for "new gases" and other gases form industrial processes; N_2O and CO_2 from agricultural soils; and revisions to land use change and forestry, waste and fuel combustion methods.

IPCC WORK PROGRAMME 1996 - 1997 - TIMETABLE



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SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS

CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. At it first session, in 1995, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) expressed strong support for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as one of the independent and prominent sources of scientific and technical information relevant to the implementation of the Convention, as specified in Article 9 of the Convention (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3). It noted that the IPCC would adopt its Second Assessment Report at its December 1995 session. It was recognized that this would include important information for the Convention, and would require priority attention at the second session of the SBSTA to enable it to provide relevant advice to the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) as necessary (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 19 (f)). The secretariat was requested to prepare a document for consideration by the SBSTA, identifying issues and suggesting the future inputs that may be needed including those relevant to the AGBM process. The SBSTA also considered further inputs it would need from the IPCC and came to a number of conclusions regarding cooperation with the Panel.

B. Scope of the note

2. The Second Assessment Report was adopted by the IPCC at its eleventh plenary session held in Rome from 11 to 15 December 1995. The Report, to be published under the title "Climate Change 1995: IPCC Second Assessment Report", comprises some 2,000 pages and includes a multitude of figures and tables and more than 10,000 references.

3. The purpose of this note is to provide an overview of the wealth of information contained in the Report with a view to facilitating its use by the SBSTA. It also identifies a number of issues for consideration by the SBSTA (see section V below). The question of future inputs that may be required from the IPCC is addressed in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/6 on cooperation with the IPCC.

4. This note provides some general information on the Report; its three addenda give more detailed information on the inputs provided by the three IPCC Working Groups. In addition, the Chairman of the IPCC will introduce the Report at the second session of the SBSTA.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT

5. Each of the three IPCC Working Groups -- Working Group I on Scientific Assessment, Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation, and Working Group III on Economic and Social Dimensions -- has contributed to the Report. In addition, a Synthesis Report has been drawn up based on the work of all three Groups and relating to

the interpretation of Article 2 of the Convention. Thus the full Report, under the title "Climate Change 1995: IPCC Second Assessment Report", will comprise four volumes, as follows:

Volume 1 **The IPCC Synthesis Report: An Assessment of Scientific - Technical Information Relevant to Interpreting Article 2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change**

6. This is an independent text, which has been approved by the IPCC after a full government review process. Copies of the complete text, in all languages, will be available to members of the SBSTA. Some information on its contents is given in section IV below.

Volume 2 **The Science of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group I of the IPCC**

7. This volume comprises a Summary for Policymakers, and a Technical Summary supported by 11 chapters on relevant scientific issues prepared by teams of scientists with expert knowledge in their respective fields. Only the Summary for Policymakers, copies of which will be available to members of the SBSTA in all languages, has been subject to the full government review process. The Technical Summary and the supporting chapters remain the responsibility of the scientists concerned, but have been the subject of worldwide peer review. Information on the contents of this volume is given in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.1.

Volume 3 **Scientific-Technical Analyses of Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group II of the IPCC**

8. This volume comprises a Summary for Policymakers, together with a Technical Summary and 28 supporting chapters relating to impacts, adaptation and mitigation of climate change in relation to a wide variety of ecosystems and sectoral and cross-sectoral activities, including the energy sector, again prepared by teams of experts. The Summary for Policymakers, which has been subject to full government review and approval, will be available to members of the SBSTA in all languages. Information on the contents of this volume is provided in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.2.

Volume 4 **Economic and Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group III of the IPCC**

9. This volume comprises a Summary for Policymakers and 11 supporting chapters on relevant topics prepared by teams of specialists. The Summary for Policymakers has been approved after full government review and will be available to members of the SBSTA in all languages. Information on the contents of this volume is provided in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.3.

Inventories

10. It should be noted that work on inventories of greenhouse gases and related methodological development is not covered by or included in the Report. It forms part of the current work of the IPCC and will continue in close cooperation with the Convention secretariat, at least until the end of 1997. Some information on this work is given in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/6.

III. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A. Introduction

11. The IPCC Second Assessment Report will serve as an authoritative source of the best available information on the science, impacts, technological options and economics of climate change. Those interested in learning about - and acting upon - climate change will now have access to the best information that the scientific community can offer at this time.

12. In addition to being of general use to the work of the Convention, the IPCC Second Assessment Report is of direct relevance to the current work under the Convention, as demonstrated by the request of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) to the Chairman and other IPCC officers concerned to provide information on quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives and on policies and measures.

13. Among the new findings in the Report, the findings that "climate has changed over the past century" and that "the balance of evidence suggests a discernable human influence on global climate" are of particular interest to the policy process since they state a fact and imply human responsibility for it. The Convention is designed to assist Governments in providing a global response.

B. Availability of the Report

14. The Synthesis and the three Summaries for Policymakers will be available in English during February 1996. Copies in all six languages of the United Nations are expected to be available by late February 1996. The published texts of the supporting chapters are expected to be available, in English only, by May 1996. Unless considerable additional funding can be found by the IPCC, it is unlikely that the supporting chapters will be translated and published in other languages. Delegates of the SBSTA wishing to consult these chapters should obtain copies from their national IPCC focal points.

C. Representativeness of the Report

15. The Second Assessment Report was drawn up by some 2,000 leading scientists and technical experts from about 130 countries. Teams of authors responsible for the preparation of each supporting chapter included scientists from the developing countries. The Report

took two and a half years to prepare and is the most comprehensive evaluation of current scientific, technical, and socio-economic research on climate change since the First Assessment Report in 1990; it is truly global in scope.

D. Review process

16. The Report has been subject to IPCC peer review, involving Governments, scientists and other specialists, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. Diverging scientific and technical views have been reflected. The Technical Summaries of Working Groups I and II as well as the chapters supporting the three Summaries for Policymakers have undergone extensive peer review and, while remaining the responsibility of the respective authors, have been accepted by the IPCC plenary session.

17. The Synthesis Report and the three Summaries for Policymakers have received full governmental review and approval.

E. Use of the Report

18. Although the SBSTA, at its second session, will have before it only the Synthesis Report and the three Summaries for Policymakers, it is clear that decision makers should make maximum use of the entire Second Assessment Report including the Technical Summaries and the supporting chapters. Members of the SBSTA should consult with their colleagues acting as IPCC focal points for access to the texts and appropriate briefing and advice as necessary.

F. Contents of the Report

19. The Second Assessment Report contains a wealth of information which will be a challenge to read, assimilate, and digest in full. The Synthesis Report and the three Summaries for Policymakers provide a broad picture of the scope of the Second Assessment Report. The subsequent three addenda to this document have been prepared in an attempt to make the Report more accessible to delegates. They provide "roadmaps", which should make it easier for delegates to find their way though the wide range of issues covered. The addenda also highlight some of the information in the Report. This is not intended to provide an interpretation of the findings or to serve as a replacement for the IPCC text, but rather to constitute an invitation to consult the Summaries and supporting chapters. Furthermore, it is hoped that these highlights will be translated in the future so as to be of some assistance to delegates who use languages other than English until the Report is made available in translated form.

G. Limitations of the Report

20. Given the manner in which the Second Assessment Report was drawn up it is not surprising that considerable differences in style and presentation are evident throughout. Likewise, the level of detail varies. In some cases certain assumptions, particularly as

concerns scenarios, differ. Even the IPCC definition of climate change, which includes climate variability, differs from that of the Convention (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.1, annex III, which provides a glossary of terms). These and other aspects will have to be taken into account by the SBSTA.

IV. THE SYNTHESIS REPORT

21. The Synthesis Report presents information on the scientific and technical issues related to the interpretation of Article 2 of the Convention, drawing on the underlying IPCC Second Assessment Report. Since the Synthesis is not simply a summary of that Report, the Summaries for Policymakers of the three IPCC Working Groups should also be consulted for a summary of the Second Assessment Report.

22. The ultimate objective of the Convention, as expressed in Article 2, "is to achieve ... stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

23. As indicated in the Synthesis Report, the challenges presented to the policymaker by Article 2 are to determine what concentrations of greenhouse gases are to be regarded as "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" and to chart a future which allows for economic development that is sustainable. The purpose of this Report is to provide scientific, technical, and socio-economic information that can be used, *inter alia*, in addressing these challenges. It is based on the 1994 and 1995 reports of the IPCC Working Groups.

24. The Synthesis Report takes up the various issues addressed in Article 2. It first briefly summarizes the degree of climate change - the "interference with the climate system" - that is projected to occur as a result of human activities. It then goes on to highlight what we know about the vulnerabilities of ecosystems and human communities to likely climate changes, especially in regard to agriculture and food production and other factors such as water availability, health and the impact of sealevel rise, which are important considerations for sustainable development. The task of the IPCC is to provide a sound scientific basis that will enable policymakers to better interpret dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

25. Given the current trends of increasing emissions of most greenhouse gases, atmospheric concentrations of these gases are likely to increase throughout the next century and beyond. With the growth in such concentrations of greenhouse gases, interference with the climate system will grow in magnitude, and the likelihood of adverse impacts from climate change that could be judged dangerous will become greater. Therefore, possible pathways of future net emissions were considered which might lead to stabilization at

different levels, and the general constraints these imply. This consideration forms the next part of the Report, and is followed by a summary of the technical and policy options for reducing emissions and enhancing sinks of greenhouse gases.

26. The Synthesis Report then addresses issues related to equity and to ensuring that economic development proceeds in a sustainable manner. This involves considering, for instance, estimates of the damage likely to be caused by climate change impacts, and the impacts, including costs and benefits, of adaptation and mitigation. Finally, a number of insights from available studies point to ways of taking initial action even if, at present, it is difficult to decide upon a target for atmospheric concentrations, including time-frames, that would prevent "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".

27. Decisions with respect to Article 2 of the Convention involve three distinct but interrelated choices: stabilization level, net emissions pathway, and mitigation technologies and policies. The Synthesis Report presents available scientific and technical information on all three choices. It also notes where uncertainties remain regarding such information.

V. POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

A. General issues

28. The SBSTA may wish to have a general discussion of the findings contained in the Report at its second session with the view to advising the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the policy implications of the findings and on the relevance of the Report to the work under the Convention. It may also consider formulating recommendations, drawing upon the Report, to other subsidiary bodies, in particular to the AGBM and consider the implications for its own work programme.

29. The SBSTA may also consider the contribution that the Report could make to education, training and public awareness (Article 6 of the Convention). In this context it may wish to recommend, *inter alia*, that Parties, organizations and institutions give appropriate attention to the Second Assessment Report and make an effort to disseminate the information contained in it. Specifically, the SBSTA may wish to invite the IPCC, its parent bodies (the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme) and the Convention secretariat to collaborate in disseminating information from the Second Assessment Report, presenting it in such a manner as to facilitate its absorption by different audiences, including the public information media.

30. In addition the SBSTA may consider what advice would be appropriate under Article 5 of the Convention, given the research and observation needs identified in the Report.

B. Synthesis Report

31. The SBSTA may consider advising the COP on an approach to the challenges presented to the policymaker as identified by the IPCC and referred to in paragraph 23 above.

C. Working Group I Summary for Policymakers

32. The SBSTA may consider the findings of Working Group I, including the crucial new finding that the balance of evidence suggests a discernable human influence on global climate (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.1, annex I paragraph (d)).

D. Working Group II Summary for Policymakers

33. The SBSTA may note that the secretariat has already started to use findings of the Second Assessment Report in its documentation for the AGBM (FCCC/AGBM/1996/2). The SBSTA may further consider the broad range of findings of Working Group II, and in that context address the following issues, including the way in which they should be taken up in its longer-term workplan:

(a) How should the Working Group II report be reflected in any consideration of Article 2?

(b) Whether, pursuant to decision 13/CP.1,* work on adaptation technologies should be undertaken by the secretariat or by the intergovernmental technical advisory panel, once established, and, if so, what level of priority should be accorded to it? (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/2 and FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4)?

(c) How should information on mitigation options be reflected in the AGBM process?

(d) Would the new information on mitigation and adaptation options need to be reflected in the guidance which is given by the COP to the Global Environment Facility and which will be further developed (see decisions 11/CP.1 and 12/CP.1)? If so, the SBSTA would need to advise the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) accordingly.

(e) Whether the new information on mitigation methods should be reflected in guidelines for national communications, and, if so, how?

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* For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

E. Working Group III Summary for Policymakers

34. The SBSTA may consider the findings of Working Group III, noting that the IPCC can clarify scientifically the implications of different approaches and proposals, but that the choice of particular proposals is a policy judgement.

35. The SBSTA may draw certain findings to the attention of the SBI and/or the AGBM, including the insights and possible actions listed under "Scope of assessment".